

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 /017 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8232

UNCLAS KINSHASA 1556

FOR AF/C

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, CPRS, CG

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT OF ATTORNEY FOR GEORGE MAES

REF: JAN 30 LETTER FROM ATTORNEY EVANS TO AMBASSADOR CUTLER

1. PLEASE ADVISE ATTORNEY FRANK EVANS BY TELEPHONE (213) 879-4144 OF FOLLOWING: THE SURVEYORS AND COUNSELORS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL PROPERTY AFFAIRS HAVE PREPARED A REPORT FOR THE COMMISSIONER OF THAT DEPARTMENT ON THE DETAILS AND HISTORY OF THE MAES CASE. COMMISSIONER NOW HAS TO DECIDE WHETHER MAES FAMILY HAS A RIGHT TO COMPENSATION. IF EVANS INTENDS TO VISIT GHANA THIS MONTH, EXTENSION OF TRIP TO KINSHASA MAY BE OPPORTUNE. AS RESULT OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE REQUESTING APPOINTMENT FOR EVANS, THE NEW COMMISSIONER OF REAL PROPERTY IS PREPARED TO SEE EVANS AND AWAITS EMBASSY CONFIRMATION. PLEASE CABLE EVANS' DECISION SO THAT APPOINTMENT CAN BE ARRANGED OR CANCELLED.

2. EVANS SHOULD BE WARNED THAT DECISION WHETHER MAES FAMILY HAS RIGHT TO COMPENSATION WILL PROBABLY NOT BE MADE BEFORE OR DURING HIS VISIT. ONE COMPLICATION IS THAT GOZ NEVER ISSUED A DOCUMENT THAT IT INTENDED TO EXPROPRIATE OR SEIZE LAND WHERE STEEL MILL WAS PLACED. SECONDLY, DECISION AS TO VALUE OF COMPENSATION COULD TAKE MANY MORE MONTHS AND INITIATION OF PAYMENTS COULD TAKE YEARS. THIRDLY, VALUE OF COMPENSATION COULD BE MINISCULE
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SINCE IT WOULD APPARENTLY BE BASED ON VALUE OF ASSETS WHICH WERE DESTROYED IN 1971 WHEN STEEL PLANT WAS ERECTED. FOURTHLY, COMPENSATION WOULD BE IN ZAIRES WHICH ARE PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO CONVERT TO DOLLARS. EVANS SHOULD ALSO BE ADVISED THAT EMBASSY PERSONNEL WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ESCORT, INTERPRET, OR INTERVENE FOR HIM. COMMERCIAL INTERPRETING SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE.

3. IF EVANS COMES TO KINSHASA, HE SHOULD CONTACT MADAME KLOUDA-MAES (COUSIN OF GEORGE MAES), WHO REPRESENTS MAES FAMILY HERE AND WHO HAS COMPLETE FILE OF DOCUMENTS, LAND TITLES, AND CORRESPONDENCE. MADAME KLOUDA-MAES WORKS AT FIRM CALLED FRIGO-AFRICA, TELEPHONE 25711.
DAVIS

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: EINV, CPRS, CG, (MAES, GEORGE)
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